



## The Darren Drake Combatting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Weapons of Terror Act

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Representative Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)

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On October 31, 2017, an ISIS-inspired, lone wolf terrorist rented a pickup truck in Passaic, New Jersey, and drove the vehicle onto the Hudson River Park bike path, killing 8 people and injuring 12 others. The lone wolf attack was the deadliest terrorist incident in New York City since 9/11. Among those lost in the tragedy that day was New Milford, New Jersey's beloved **Darren Drake**.

In recent years, ISIS has aggressively promoted the use of vehicles as weapons of war, distributing detailed instructions to would-be terrorists via its own online propaganda magazine "Rumiyah." Terrorists across Europe and the U.S. have increasingly resorted to new low-cost strategies to evade detection from law enforcement and to maximize the human toll of their attacks. In July 2016, a terrorist in Nice, France, rammed a truck into a crowd gathered to celebrate Bastille Day, killing more than 80 people. This is hardly a new threat: in 1993, Ramzi Yousef and Eyad Ismoil, rented a pick up truck in Jersey City, drove it into a parking garage beneath the World Trade Center and detonated a homemade bomb, killing six people and injuring more than one thousand.

Often lone wolves have become "known wolves" and in the case of the Chelsea Bomber, Ahmad Khan Rahimi, and the Orlando gunman, Omar Mateen and others, the authorities already investigated the attacker, or friends, family members, and known associates. It's clear that we need a process in place to coordinate our homeland security and notify federal law enforcement when a potentially dangerous individual rents or purchases a vehicle capable of inflicting mass damage in public areas.

As terrorists continue to make use of vans, trucks and low cost, high impact 21<sup>st</sup> century weapons of terror, our law enforcement must have better tools to combat these growing threats.

**Legislation:** The bipartisan Darren Drake Combatting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Weapons of Terror Act would help combat ISIS-inspired, lone wolf terrorism and protect Americans from vehicular terrorism by:

- Requiring dealers and rental agencies that provide trucks or commercial vans to share critical information on with the FBI and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) to find potential matches in the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE) database or in FBI case files
- Immediately reopening any federal law enforcement case files on any matching suspects
- Requiring the FBI to notify and coordinate with the relevant Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) if a known or potentially dangerous terror suspect acquires a truck; and
- Establishing a competitive grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to help state and local governments prepare for and protect from the threat of terrorism and terrorist attacks using heavy vehicles by protecting exposed public and pedestrian areas with security barriers and bollards.

The Darren Drake Combatting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Weapons of War Act will help prevent lone wolf ISIS-inspired terrorists from carrying out deadly attacks, and give our communities the resources they need to crack down on these heinous threats.